

Remarks

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3-9 and 11-20 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 9, 13 and 15 being independent. Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9 and 13 have been amended and Claims 15-20 have been added herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Advisory Action dated May 9, 2003, that dependent Claims 2 and 10 remain objected to, but were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Solely to expedite allowance of the application, independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include the features of dependent Claims 2 and 10, respectively. In addition, independent Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of dependent Claim 10. Thus, independent Claims 1, 9 and 13 are believed to be allowable. Dependent Claims 3-8, 11, 12 and 14 are also believed to be allowable due to their dependency on the foregoing independent claims and in their own right. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 16-20 have been added to afford Applicant an increased scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure.

Favorable and early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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